

Jude

“Just Hold On” -Lesson One-

Introduction: Author - Traditionally, Jude the brother of James and Jesus. Due to vs.17 and the elaborate use of Greek, it is believed that Jude was from the next generation, but related to Jesus & James.

Recipients - Jewish Christians

Occasion - False Teachers have inappropriately entered the church & gained a following.

[Jude 1-4].....“Hello” & “Let's Get To It!”

vs.1 Jude identifies himself as a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James.
Why isn't being identified with Jesus enough?

vs.2 Regular Christian greeting would contain only “grace & peace.” Jude includes "mercy." The implication for us is two-fold:
1."Mercy, peace, and love...in abundance" is echoed at the letter's end. If they follow Jude's instructions, mercy, peace, and love *will* be theirs.
2.It's possibly an example of the writing style of a Greek-educated person. Jude would not be Jesus' biological brother. (generation later)

vss.3-4 After a quick greeting, Jude gets to the point.
He had intended to write them about their shared salvation in Christ, but the false teachers in their midst posed an urgent threat for Jude.
Jude establishes three issues in this letter he is going to address:
1.*Contend*: Jude uses this word to show that their faith is worth fighting for and standing against the venom of the false teachers.
2.Who *They* Are: "godless men...{who}secretly slipped in among you"
These men might have been traveling missionaries who easily could come in under the impression of being holy, but weren't.
3.How It Will End: "For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago..." Jude is referring to God's judgment as described in the Old Testament.
What they are teaching has predisposed some to deny Christ and engage in immorality.
But Jude is reassuring those saints entrusted with the faith that the false teachers cannot destroy the rule of the Lord.

[Jude 5-13].....“And to the Unfaithful & Rebellious...”

vss.5-7 This is Jude's first touring of "memory lane." All three events are examples of groups who sinned in gothic proportions against God and were judged!
1.The delivered who "did not believe" are the 10 spies who gave a negative report of the Promised Land to Moses(Num.14). Jude uses them to show that the *delivered* who turn on the Lord will be condemned
2.The angels who didn't keep their positions are Satan and the fallen
3.The sexual immorality and perversion of Sodom and Gomorrah is a

direct reference to Genesis 19. The men of Sodom sought to gang rape two angels.

This sin was horrific because it not only violated God's law of people abusing people, but is showed that they would try to attack God in the form of his messengers.

In all three cases, the sinners knew better, but did not do better! They were punished! Jude is saying, "don't let this be you."

vs.8 "...pollute their own bodies, reject authority..." - They will not stop their immorality nor yield to God's authority
"...slander celestial beings(blaspheme angels)" is not as easy to understand:

1.They could be associating themselves with what comes from fallen angels

2.Jude is linking them to the fallen angels; therefore, calling them rebellious!

vs.9 Micheal's involvement cannot be clearly understood until verse 10, but the story of Michael and Satan fighting of the body of Moses deals with whether or not Moses deserved a burial. Satan contended that Moses didn't deserve to be buried by angels because he had killed a man. Michael quotes Zech.3:2(conversation between God and Satan over the high priest Joshua), "The Lord rebuke you."

Jude's point is that Michael did not take the authority of pronouncing divine judgment on Satan(even though Satan deserved it). Michael knew his place!

vs.10 Had Micheal rebuked Satan, it would have been understandable, but the false-teachers say and do whatever they want that is sinful in the eyes of the Lord without remorse! Judgment is coming.

In essence, they live like "unreasoning animals" never seeing that their immorality and false teachings will be the death of them.

vs.11 Cain, Balaam, & Korah were all rebellious against God.

Cain killed his brother, though he'd been warned about his evil(Gen.4:6-7)

Balaam, according to later stories, went back on his word in Num.23:26 by taking money and cursed Israel - pushed them to sin in Num. 25

Korah & his followers were swallowed by the ground after rebelling against Moses and Aaron in Num. 16

vs.12-13 Their participation defiles the communal meals of the church. For the represent chaotic behavior in the natural world: clouds without rain; autumn trees without fruit; waves that toss foam on the shore; & wandering(falling) stars.

The only suitable place for them is "the blackest darkness."

Conclusion - Don't fall for the false teachings!